

Long time Herndon resident Richard Downer enjoyed the Arts Crawl evening. He spent most of his time at Green Lizard Cycling where quite a few folks gathered to listen to Kyla Wilcox from the Music Loft play the ukulele and offer some free lessons to uke newbies. Trying out the instruments were his wife, Linda, on the left, and the Arts Crawl organizer, Mercia Hobson on the right.

Oak Hill
Herndon
CONNECTION



Shining A Light On the Arts of Herndon

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WEEK IN HERNDON

Area Students Named to the Virginia Honors Choir

Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County public schools have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2016. This select choir is open only to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. Thirty-one Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates. The choir will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention to be held at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs November 17-19. FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia Honors Choir include the following students from our area schools: **Herndon High School:** Evelyn Showalter and Joey Rudek; **South Lakes High School:** Meredith Brooker, Nathan Nkomba, and alternate Abigail Thomas and **Oakton High School:** Jillian Tate and Violetta Nagy.

MOMS Club® Agenda: Taking Charge of your Health

The MOMS Club of Herndon will host a monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to noon at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Road, Herndon). All Herndon, VA (zip codes 20170 and 20171) at-home mothers and their children are encouraged to attend. Jennifer Chu, a board certified women's health specialist from ITR Physical Therapy www.itrphysicaltherapy.com, will discuss ways to strengthen and heal our postpartum bodies.

For more information or to RSVP, contact: Stephanie Talberg, membership vice president at herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

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A fabulous troupe from Rhythm Street Dance Center in Herndon performed a number of routines that earned them a lot of toe-tapping and finger-snapping accompaniment from the “crawlers” who stopped to watch. A bit of a chill and brick-instead-of-wood for their stage were no obstacles to these energetic young ladies.



From left — Showing off her artistic talent in front of Copan Restaurant was artist Livingston Rodgers with “crawler” Virginia Glenn of Great Falls. Glenn already owns at least one piece by Rodgers, but looked ready to add to her collection.



Tom Bodine and Kathleen Huber – AKA Song Garden – play where the music takes them: this time on the corner of Elden and Spring Streets in downtown Herndon. With the sponsorship of the Reston Herndon Folk Club, a number of musical acts were on hand on the outdoor “stage” to entertain the people doing the 2016 Herndon Arts Crawl.

Shining A Light on the Arts of Herndon

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

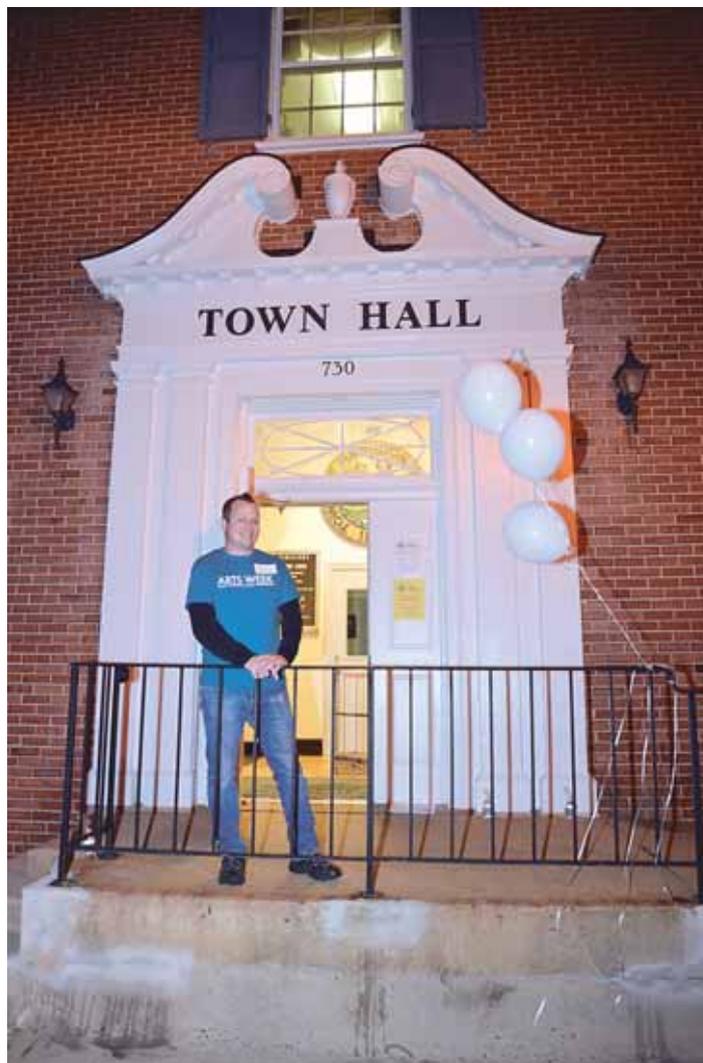
An “Arts Crawl” around historic downtown was a perfect mid-point for Herndon Arts Week, an annual celebration that started its 2016 run with “Kids Day” at Frying Pan Park and ended appropriately with a performance by child prodigy pianist Jose Andre Montano at ArtSpace in the town.

From 5:30 p.m. until 8 (ish – since some folks didn’t want the fun to end!) shops and restaurants and even street corners became venues for painters, potters, dancers and musicians, to the delight of Herndon residents and quite a few who came from other locales to enjoy the various artistic offerings. “I’ve come to this event before,” said Sylvia Allemagne from McLean, “but I think this is the best one yet!”

PRAISE FOR THE EVENT, which saw more artists and artisans and more participation from local businesses than in years past, was echoed by many who attended, like Richard Downer and his wife Linda. “I think this is probably the first *real* crawl,” commented Downer, who was enjoying visiting with neighbors and friends while listening to some ukulele music at Green Lizard Cycling. It’s probably safe to take his word on the matter since Downer has been around these parts for a long time. “Before we moved to Herndon, at eleven years old I used to ride the train on the Washington and Old Dominion Line from Oakton to work as the shoeshine boy in my dad’s barbershop,” he said.

Aside from the action at The Green Liz-

Jason Dimambro, Community Outreach Manager for Arts Herndon, manned the Herndon Town Hall venue for the evening Arts Crawl around the historic downtown. Jason was happy to welcome “crawlers” to an exhibit of pottery and other works by the event’s organizer, Mercia Hobson. “What a great night for a wonderful neighbourhood event.”



PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

ard, which also provided space for several artisans on the sidewalk, performances took place in front of the Herndon Train Depot

and inside and outside of eateries and beverage hot spots like O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub, Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern, Copan and Medi-

terranean Breeze. The alcove on the corner of Elden and Spring Streets became the perfect stage for several groups, sponsored by the Reston Herndon Folk Club. Town Hall even got into the act, hosting a pottery exhibit by the Arts Crawl organizer, Mercia Hobson.

Mercia and her army of volunteers have been hard at work on the Arts Crawl for the last three months, and seeing so many people out and about, enjoying the arts and “just being neighborly” made all of that effort more than worthwhile. Hobson said it was great to bring the arts “into the streets for everyone to enjoy” and to support local artists and performers.

PUT A BIG CHECKMARK in the books for the 2016 edition of Arts Crawl Herndon, but don’t stop enjoying the arts around town just because this year’s event is over. Hobson urges everyone to keep checking out the exhibits and events at ArtSpace, Herndon’s community art gallery, workshop and showcase for performers. Various classes for different age groups and interests are also available at the facility at 750 Center St. According to Hobson, the first week of November should see offerings by about 45 artists in the expanded workshop at the gallery, “just in time for your holiday shopping!” she laughed.

Visit the website at www.artspaceherndon.com for their calendar of events and more information about classes, and www.artsherndon.org to keep up to date on what Arts Herndon!, the private, non-profit organization is up to in their mission to bring access to the arts to everyone in the area.

OPINION

No to the Meals Tax Yes to the Meals Tax

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and pre-social security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not

pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry — one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Reduces dependence on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-
EICHNER

As a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and high-quality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K 12 education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue — \$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.

2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.

3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.

4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.

5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-on-the-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do.

If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Supports Meals Tax

After careful consideration, the Fairfax – Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has decided to fully support the proposed 4 percent Fairfax County Meals Tax.

Seventy percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to our Fairfax County Schools. Our schools have an integral role in

identifying and assisting our homeless and at risk youth as part of our homeless service system. Providing additional funding for the schools only makes sense.

Thirty percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to the county's general fund to be used for priorities as identified by the

Board of Supervisors. One of these priorities is preventing and ending homelessness. In 2008 the Board of Supervisors adopted the Implementation Plan to Prevent Homelessness. At the very beginning of that Plan, the county stated: "By 2018, every person in our community will access and maintain decent, safe,

affordable housing."

We fully expect a portion of the funds raised by the meals tax will be used for this important priority.

Michael L. O'Reilly

Chairman, Board of the Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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LETTERS

A Leader on Veterans Issues

To the Editor:

All too often our veterans have been forgotten and not given the honors they deserve when they return home from their tours of duty. As a veteran myself, I have long been bothered by the fact that many of our veterans who served in the Korean War have not received the recognition they are owed.

But last week, Congress took a major step toward ameliorating that problem. The House passed H.R. 1475, which creates a wall

of remembrance located at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The wall will

list the names of all those who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners during the war, and will finally provide veterans of the Korean War the honor and respect they deserve.

I was proud to see that our Congresswoman, Barbara Comstock, was one of the cosponsors of this important piece of legislation. Barbara has been a leader in Congress on veterans' issues and has been at the forefront

of passing several major pieces of legislation benefiting veterans. She was a key cosponsor of the

Hire More Heroes Act, which incentivizes small businesses to hire veterans returning from war. She also co-sponsored the SALUTE Act, which assists veterans coping with addiction and mental illness. And most recently, Barbara supported efforts to combat the issue of veteran suicide by voting for the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Bill.

I am very grateful for all that Barbara has done for veterans. She has made it a priority to help those of us who have served our nation and I urge you to support her this November.

Lindsey Smith
Herndon

Navy's Birthday Celebrated at Herndon High

Herndon High School Navy JROTC Cadets celebrated the Navy's 241st Birthday with cake and camaraderie, but they also had a special surprise: Captain Fred Blakeman, the original Senior Naval Science Instructor, joined them for this special day. Captain Blakeman started the unit in 1983 and remained at Herndon for 17 years making the unit one of the best in Fairfax County. Another surprise was for Captain Blakeman when the Interim Principal Dan Meier joined the celebration. He and Captain Blakeman served together at Herndon years ago. Principal Meier made some comments about the importance of the Navy as it celebrated its 241st birthday. He said, "The U. S. Navy has been the cornerstone of American security and prosperity for almost two and a half centuries. At the heart of our success is the American Sailor, serving afloat and ashore to the far reaches of the globe, protecting our country, advancing our interests, supporting our allies, delivering aid to peoples in crisis, and vigilantly guarding the sea lanes that are so necessary to our economic stability." Following Meier's comments, the unit Commanding Officer, Cadet Lieutenant Commander Back and Captain Blakeman cut a cake made by a fellow cadet's parents with the traditional naval

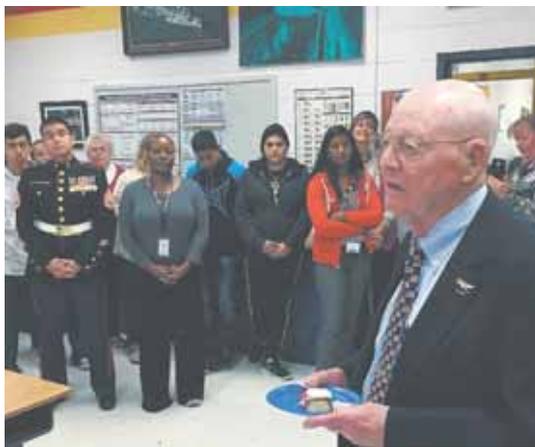


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Captain Blakeman speaks to assembled cadets about his time at the Unit and the early days in 1983.

officer's sword. Then, as is tradition, the guest of honor was given the first piece of cake, the oldest Cadet the second, and then the oldest cadet gave a piece of cake to the youngest cadet. Finally, Captain Blakeman made some closing comments to the Cadets and thanked them for bringing him so many great memories.

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Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it,'" said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. ... However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an exercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT

The election season offers students such as those at BASIS Independent School in McLean an opportunity to learn about the political process.

their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students prefer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests,'" said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names, are:

- ◆ Jake Cui, A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.
- ◆ Tarun Kamath, Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.
- ◆ Ava Lakmazaheri, Brain-actuated Robotics: A

"Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills ..."

— Colleen K. Vesely, Ph.D.,
George Mason University.

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children, says Vesely, doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," she said. "Parents ought to pay attention to ... their children's emotional states ... especially after viewing or discussing election-related media. As parents, we can look for teachable moments in which we might express notions of treating others how [we] want to be treated."

Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.

◆ Austin Mills, Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multi-generational Brassica rapa.

◆ Kunal Shroff, The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.

◆ Matthew Sun, Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.

◆ Jason Wei, Improving Lateral Flow Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.

Advice from the Pros

Local private school admissions directors share wisdom they'd offer to their own children.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From interviews to essays to standardized tests to open houses, the season for submitting independent school applications is underway. For families vying for a spot at the area's most elite schools, the process can be fraught with anxiety, stress and confusion as parents and students wade through the myriad academic options in the Washington, D.C., region.

Admissions decision-makers at five local private schools share advice that they might offer their own children, underscoring the importance of finding the best fit rather than trying to fit into a top school if the environment might not match a student's personality.

Matti Donkor, interim director of enrollment management at The Madeira School in McLean:

"Enter the process very open-minded. I don't believe in saying, 'This is the one school for me.' I believe in knowing the core things that are important to you like the school's community, culture and traditions, but also in understanding that you might

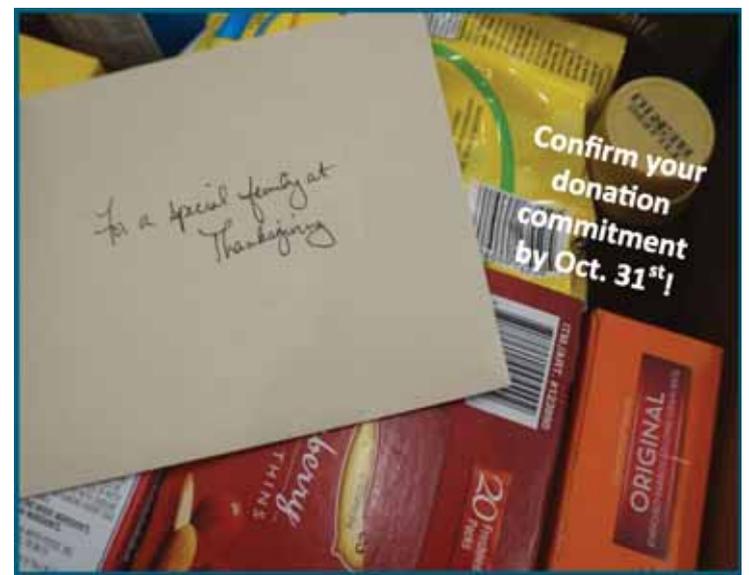
find those characteristics in a variety of schools. I think students and families should be engaged in the [application] process. I think we do the school visit and that is the only interaction you have with the school. Find out what else is happening on campus, connect with other students and alumni. Really take the time to understand the culture of the school and whether it appeals to you."

Lisa Knight, director of admission, Flint Hill School, Oakton:

"Take time to learn about the school community. Shadow for day, attend several [school] community events, go and experience the community for yourself. Notice how you feel when you are on campus. Do you feel welcomed? Are current students and teachers greeting you in the hallways and classrooms? Do they notice you? Can you see yourself growing academically, intellectually and socially there? Are you comfortable with the teaching style and methods? Do you value what the school values?"

Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent, McLean:

"I would advise students not to get too caught up in their resumes and records and instead work to discuss passions and projects that excite and interest them.



Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive

For many in our community with stressed budgets and financial challenges, a Thanksgiving dinner just isn't possible. Your support of Cornerstones' annual Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive will help make a fulfilling holiday possible for nearly 1,000 families this season.

Visit www.cornerstonesva.org to sign-up by Oct. 31st!

No one should go hungry this Thanksgiving.



A Dreamy Tale of Love and Loss

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice has fascinated audiences for centuries. But NextStop Theatre is producing a modern retelling told from the perspective of Eurydice. That gives it a different outlook. The play titled “Eurydice” is written by Sarah Ruhl. She is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and a recipient of the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright Award that includes one of the largest cash awards of its kind in American Theater.

Ruhl is noted for distinctive plays that take the familiar and reassemble it into something fresh. For “Eurydice,” Ruhl took the legendary tale of Orpheus’ journey into the Underworld seeking his wife Eurydice, to refocus the journey with Eurydice’s point of view.

According to director Jay D. Brooks, audiences can expect plenty of surprises in the NextStop production. It will be a dreamy,

Emily Kester performs as Eurydice in the NextStop production of “Eurydice.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

surreal tale of love and loss. In Ruhl’s “Eurydice” there is also something not in the original myth; a very key father-daughter bond that adds many new levels of emotional attachments as Eurydice, her father and Orpheus make their ways through many a poetic scene.

Brooks called “Eurydice” a modern retelling about fathers and daughters. It is about a father and daughter who want just one more opportunity to share time together with one more chance to speak to one another. It’s about the heart and the challenges



Jay D. Brooks, director, NextStop Theatre’s “Eurydice”

faced dealing with love and loss.”

NextStop’s “Eurydice” will also be abundantly comic as well. There are characters such as the “Nasty Interesting Man” and the “Stones”; Little Stone, Big Stone, and Loud Stone, who serve as a Greek chorus. There is even a Lord of the Underworlds who is initially depicted as a young child. The play is quite wistful. “There will even be water on the set as well as imaginative constructions such as a room “built” of string, noted Brooks.

“Ruhl’s language so connected with me.

Mystical drama ‘Eurydice’ coming to NextStop Theatre.

Where & When

NextStop Theater presents “Eurydice” performed at 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances Oct. 27 – Nov. 20, 2016. Thursdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays, Nov. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. with Saturday performances on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m., Nov. 5 at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. with performances on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$35. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

It is beautiful, witty, visceral, human and resonates,” said Emily Kester who portrays Eurydice. “Eurydice is such a curious person, struggling to find her own identity; not just as a daughter or a wife.”

“Both Orpheus and Eurydice are young. They are not completely sure of themselves,” said Kester. And Eurydice is also dealing with “the loss of her father and all the lovely connections they had. She just wants to see him again and talk.”

“Eurydice” is a powerful tale of love ready to tug at the heart and mind.



Volunteers by book boxes: The book drive continues through Oct. 29.



XanderDay and grandmother flute duet.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Rising Eagle Scout Demonstrates Talent, Leadership and Philanthropic Spirit

More than 200 members of the community attended Xander Day’s Make A Difference Day Benefit Concert and Children’s Book Drive on Oct. 9 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Herndon. The accomplished flutist and Oakton High School senior led the concert, accompanied by eighteen classically-trained musicians who

also donated their time and talent to support Assistance League of Northern Virginia’s Make A Difference Day 2016 campaign.

Day’s family and friends delighted the audience with classical, patriotic and other music to bring awareness to the nonprofit’s children’s book drive. From the soloist singing the National Anthem to the brass

quartet’s rich sounds to Day’s brilliant duet with his grandmother, and all of the musicians in between, each performance was captivating.

In lieu of an admission fee, attendees donated new books for elementary school age children. By the end of the evening, collection boxes were filled to the brim with more than 500 books in addition to cash

donations. The book drive continues through Oct. 29 with drop boxes at Day Violins, 14221A Willard Road, Suite 500, in Chantilly. The books will be donated to selected Title I schools in the community in early November. To learn more about Assistance League’s community-based programs, visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

The Kensington Falls Church to Host Job Fair 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hilton, adjacent to their building, is located at 706 West Broad Street in Falls Church. Kensington Senior Living, based in Reston, Virginia, is pleased to announce the opening of an Assisted Living community in the

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

heart of Falls Church in early 2017. In anticipation of hiring more than 125 new employees, they will be hosting a job fair at the Hilton Garden Inn on Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register for the job fair by emailing FallsChurchCareers@KensingtonSL.com or by calling 703-992-9868.

ONGOING

Passages Divorce Care. Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 through Jan 7. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050,

www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.
Fairfax County’s Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.
The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and

crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions. The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and

CALENDAR

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Exercise for Parkinson's Every Monday, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free.parkinsonfoundation.org. ckacenga@sportandhealth.com 703-621-4148.

Beginning / Intermediate Oil Painting - Vicki Blum Thursdays 7 - 10 p.m. Sept. 15 - Nov. 10, 2016. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Learn contemporary and classical methods of painting. Recommended for artists who want to improve the realistic appearance of their work. www.artspaceherndon.com 703-956-9560

Shih Chieh Huang. Synthetic Transformations Sept. 16 - Nov. 16. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center. Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Dynamic gallery experience by Shih Chieh Huang, sponsored by Leidos and the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Huang will present an installation featuring elements created from a variety of media including LED lights and materials such as plastic bags and Tupperware. Cost: Free. info@resonarts.org 703-471-9242.

Meadow Farms Fall Festival Great Falls Oct. 3 - Oct. 31 Monday through Friday 8 - 7 p.m. Saturday 8 - 6 p.m. Sunday 9 - 6 p.m. 10618 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. There will be pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, mums, pansies, star bales, and everything else you need for the fall look. A huge selection of pumpkins. There will also be moon bounces, giant scarecrows, haunted buses and pipes for the kids to go through, weekend concessions and much more. Let your kids have a blast while you pick out your pumpkins and all your fall needs. www.meadowfarms.com

Manganelli Solos at PenFed Realty October and November 2016 at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr., Reston. The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. leagueofrestonartists.org

LRA displays "Courage" at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery Oct. 3 - Oct. 31. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Experience the artists' courage to break through fears, embrace empathy, and reject conflict through color and brushstroke. Paintings and mixed media work. Presented by the League of Reston Artists. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

8th Annual Expressions Portrait Exhibit October 5 - October 28 ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. An exhibit featuring finalists in the 8th Annual Expressions Portrait Competition. Competition juror and renowned artist Jordan Xu made the selections for the finalists. Local artist and juror Tricia Cherrington-Ratliff will announce winners of the competition during the Awards Reception on Saturday, October 15th 7 - 9 p.m. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com

Gypsy Takes The Stage at Reston Community Players The "Mother of all Musicals" opens RCP 50th Anniversary Season. October 21 through November 12. Performance Dates Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29, 30*, Nov. 4, 5, 6*, 11, 12 2016. Shows start at



World premiere screening of the new documentary THE UNIVERSITY, a film about Singularity University; an institution tucked away on a hidden NASA base in Silicon Valley will be held on Friday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Bow Tie Reston Town Center 11 & BTX Theater, 11940 Market St. Tickets \$12 - \$15. A panel of futurists will be on hand for a post-screening discussion. Washington West Film Festival runs Oct. 19-25. More information at <https://www.filmfest.com/>

8 p.m. Please note: Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 are matinees with a 2 p.m. curtain. It's known as one of the most classic American musicals of all time. Broadway productions have starred legends ranging from Ethel Merman, Bernadette Peters, and Patti LuPone. While, the motion picture versions were led by Merman and Bette Midler. Now, Gypsy takes the stage at Reston Community Players. Restonplayers.org

Team Trivia at Kalypso's. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Bring your friend and join the challenge. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Open Mic Night at Kalypso's. Mondays, 7-10 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Musicians and singers come out and perform. 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Karaoke at Kalypso's. Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m. Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Come to Kalypso's and sing your hearts out! 703-707-0660. www.kalypsosportstavern.com.

Mr. Knick Knack. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. restontowncenter.com. 703-579-6720

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key

run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Reston Photographic Society Meetings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston on the third Monday of each month through Nov. 31. The meeting date is changed if the third Monday falls on a holiday. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share info and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers welcome. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

Herndon Regional Ensemble Practice. Every Tuesday 7-9 p.m. through May. Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. For advanced high school students, college students, and adults who play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. 703-904-4800 HerndonRegionalWindEnsemble@gmail.com Cost: Free

Through the Eye of the Needle Quilt Show Oct. 31 - Nov. 28. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, 2609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. The Coting Quilters, an active Reston group who focuses on traditional and modern designs, presents its first quilt show. The exhibition, with no hard and fast rules, features full sized quilts, art quilts, wall hanging, table runners and other fabric art. A reception will take place on Sunday November 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Email ablownen@gmail.com for more information.

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

**Elden Street Widening
Town of Herndon
Design Public Hearing**

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Herndon Senior Center
873 Grace Street, Herndon, VA 20170

Find out about plans to widen East Elden Street (Route 606) from four to six lanes between Herndon Parkway and Fairfax County Parkway in the Town of Herndon. Other improvements include a new raised median between Van Buren Street and Herndon Parkway, and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities such as bike lanes.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) was prepared. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties is also included in the environmental document.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information on the VDOT website (www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern-virginia), at the public hearing, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1795 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the hearing, or submit them by **November 28, 2016** to Mr. Hamid Misaghian, P.E., Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Elden Street Widening" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: U000-235-110, P101, R201, C501
Federal Project: HPD-5401 (455) UPC: 50100

Two Things I Worry About



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the sake of this column, anyway: should I be hospitalized for more than a passing fancy, how will I be able to maintain my non-Western (50-plus pills, Braggs Apple Cider vinegar, wheat grass, Essential Oil, etc.) alternatives/daily regimen away from home? And secondly, should I be so hospitalized that it makes returning to work WHERE I CO-PAY MY HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS impractical and quite unimaginable — under the presumptive-circumstances-possibly-to-be, said insurance is unlikely to continue/be co-paid for too long, even though I work for an incredibly kind and understanding company, how do I transition to non-work/working-dependent health insurance?

I suppose "Obamacare" is likely the answer but could I afford (since I'd no longer be making my previous income) the premiums which would be higher than my present co-paid premium? If the answer is indeed "Obamacare," is its "openness" seasonal? At certain times? Requiring special circumstances? What if I am accepted but have to change insurers after nearly eight extremely successful (which I define as yours truly still being alive) years and begin anew with who knows what, where and how about me, myself and I? If part of surviving cancer is managing stress, I don't see how that management — so to speak, continues after such a drastic change in my health care/lifestyle?

As for my pills/ "Rebecca routine," what will give (to re-work an old expression) when hospitalized? Based on my previous one-week stay in August 2013, nothing will be given — or asked about. I'm not sure if it wasn't asked about or integrated into my treatment as a matter of hospital policy or simply a reflection of poor planning/non-advocacy on our part? Either way, I stopped taking my pills/doing my things, things that quite frankly have likely contributed to my amazing good fortune to still be alive so many more years longer than my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis suggested I'd be. And how do you think the added stress of not maintaining another routine that's been an integral part of my life going on for nearly eight years post diagnosis would affect my stay/stress should I be forced to extend my time at the hospital?

Perhaps I sound naive in worrying about pills and policies, especially considering that at the moment (although I am currently waiting for CT Scan and brain MRI results from two days ago and have chemotherapy scheduled in two hours), neither scenario is imminent. But that's exactly the concern. If I wait until it's imminent, it might be "too late," as Tommy Heinsohn, aka "Tommy Gun" during his playing days, used to exclaim after made baskets by the Boston Celtics, while doing television broadcasts for them back in the day, starting in the mid-1960s. And the other scenario: one is not exactly forewarned when 'imminent' is; it sort of happens, right? All one can do I think, is anticipate and possibly/dare I say inevitably, investigate and plan accordingly — without being too morbid or morose in the process. Because once I lose my sunny disposition and positive attitude/sense of humor, it's likely that all bets: win, place or show — and presumptions, are off. "Not a sermon, just a thought," to invoke/quote Lon Solomon from McLean Bible Church as heard on local radio here in Washington, D.C.

Because who knows what matters, really? I certainly don't. I only know is what I don't know. And what I don't know is, will any of the likely future changes I've discussed — to quote Curly Howard from the Three Stooges' episode "Some More of Samoa": "kill or cure."

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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Gordon Parks, *Back to Fort Scott* is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: *Shaded, St. Louis, Missouri* 1950; *Charles Parks (Newborn), 1917-2006*, guest star photo. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

21 Announcements



JOHN DAVID FARRELL SR MD (Age 79)

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

Obituary

Herndon - **Stephen Jeremy Crum** died on Sunday, October 16, 2016, after being stricken at home. He was the son of The Rev. John M., Jr. and Ernestine Benson Crum.

He was born in Red Bank, New Jersey on March 5, 1958, when his father was Rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg, New Jersey.

He relocated with his family in to Cobleskill in 1967 when Fr. Crum became the Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. He attended Cobleskill Central School and graduated in 1976. He attended SUNY Cobleskill where he played on the Tennis Team, Swim Team, Diving and Water Polo. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to Coastal Carolina University where he played tennis and graduated with a BS in Marine Biology in 1980.

He married Stephanie Miller, formerly of Albany, on October 31, 1992 and they lived in Herndon, VA where he was employed as an Assistant Program Manager for Navy contracts at Telos International. He was active in the Episcopal Churches in Great Falls, VA and Cobleskill, NY.

He is survived by his wife: Stephanie, his son: Army Private First Class Samuel Morgan Crum of Fort Campbell, Kentucky and daughter: Sarah Katherine Crum of Herndon. He is also survived by his mother: Ernestine Crum of Warnerville; his brother: James F. Crum (Joanne) of Cobleskill; a niece: Darcy Crum Meadows (Ryan) and grandniece, Joanna Lia Meadows, of Baltimore, MD; his mother-in-law: Bernice Fields Miller (late Melvin) of Herndon; and brother-in-law: Douglas Miller (Helen) of Baltimore. His father, The Rev. John M. Crum, Jr., predeceased him in 1996.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 11 AM at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, St. Christopher's Place, Cobleskill, NY. A visitation period will be held at the church prior to the mass, from 10 AM to 11 AM. Burial will follow at Cobleskill Rural Cemetery. The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk will be the celebrant, assisted by The Rev. Dr. Ellen Neufeld, FHC.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, PO Box 386, Cobleskill, NY 12043.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Mereness-Putnam Funeral Home, 171 Elm St., Cobleskill and Palmer & Shaylor Funeral Home of Middleburgh.

Further information and the provision for online condolences may be found at www.merenessputnamfuneralhome.com

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, Dr. Farrell entered into peaceful rest after a long illness at home with his family at his bedside. He was born March 24, 1937, at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA.

He is preceded in death by his father, Dr. Marcus E. Farrell and his mother, Mae Ann (Hurray) Farrell. His first wife, Carol (Aston) Farrell passed away November 2015 in Raleigh, NC. He is survived by his wife Nancy, brother Marcus E. Farrell Jr. (wife Ellen); father to John David Farrell Jr. (wife Kerry and grandchildren Victor, Patrick and David); Laura Farrell Page (husband Jeff and grandchildren, Carter, Natalie and Logan); Michael Farrell and Julene Farrell; stepfather to Cynthia Connell (husband Paul and grandchildren Brian and Kevin).

Originally from Clarksburg, W. Va., he is a 1955 graduate of Campion Jesuit High School, a Jesuit boarding school for boys in Prairie du Chien, Wis.; a 1959 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He completed his medical training in 1965 after his internship at Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, and residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh; Member American Academy of Pediatrics.

After completing his medical training Dr. Farrell served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Pediatrics, Camp Lejeune, N.C. In 1968-69 he served in Vietnam pacification program as a Navy pediatric physician advisor II corps, Milphap Team N-4 in Nha Trang and Saigon treating plaque, malaria and tuberculosis. After being discharged in 1969 he continued to serve in the U. S. Navy Reserves receiving an honorable discharge as Lieutenant Commander April 1975. He received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his tour in the military, in 1971 he moved to Reston, Va., establishing Farrell Pediatrics in Hunters Woods Village Center. He served as a physician at Inova Fairfax and Reston Hospitals. In 1985 he moved his practice to Sunset Hills Professional Center. The practice still bears his name and continues to provide pediatric care to youth of Northern Virginia.

Family will receive guests 5-8pm on Friday, October 28 at Adams-Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden St., Herndon, VA. Mass will be held 1pm Saturday, October 29 at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA. Reception to follow.

Information and condolences at www.adamsgreen.com

21 Announcements

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Barbara understands the sacrifices and commitments made by educators in Virginia's 10th District and across the nation. She supports policies which empower parents and give states and localities more control over their local schools to ensure the best education for our children.



- › The House passed Congresswoman Comstock's *Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act*, which will help young women in the STEM fields through programs at NASA.
- › Congresswoman Comstock has authored the *Student Loan Relief Act*, which would offer students the ability to refinance their education loans to take advantage of lower interest rates. It would also allow employers to use pre-tax dollars to assist qualified employees in paying off student loan debt.

- › Congresswoman Comstock is the Co-Chair of the *STARBASE Caucus*, which offers hands-on STEM education to students in elementary school. She has worked in a bipartisan manner to increase resources for this important program.
- › Congresswoman Comstock voted for the bipartisan *Every Student Succeeds Act*. This bill, signed into law, represented a significant step toward improving our education system and empowers educators and parents to do what is best for each individual student.

"I come from a family of educators – my mom was a school teacher and librarian and my husband Chip is a retired Fairfax County assistant principal and teacher. My sister is a guidance counselor at a Fairfax County Public School. The education of our children and grandchildren has always been a top priority of mine. It's a privilege to represent you in Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Together, we can make sure our children receive a world class education."

Barbara Comstock

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ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION:
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